Amendments to the Specification:

*Please amend the paragraph one page 1, lines 3-5 as follow:

Related Application Data

This application is a continuation-in-part of application 09/800,093, filed March 5, 2001 (published as US 2002-0124171 A1), the disclosure of which is incorporated by reference.

*Please amend the paragraph spanning page 3, line 20 – page 4, line 2 as follow:

Any watermarking technique can be employed in the present invention, provided the requisite number of watermark payload bits can be embedded without introducing objectionable corruption into the image. Suitable watermarking technologies are disclosed, e.g., in patent publications US 6,122,403 US 6,044,182, and WO 99/45705, and in pending US application 09/503,881 (now U.S. Patent No. 6,614,914).